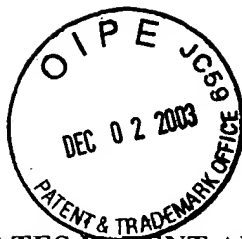


Express Mail Label No.: EV312715246US
Date of Deposit: December 2, 2003



PATENT APPLICATION
Atty Docket: 15966-557 RCE (Cura-57 RCE)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS : Shimkets and Prayaga
SERIAL NUMBER : 09/494,585 EXAMINER : Christine Saoud
FILING DATE : January 31, 2000 ART UNIT : 1647
FOR : NOVEL FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTOR AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

MAIL STOP

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313.1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Applicants file herewith a Response to the Office Action mailed June 2, 2003, in the above-referenced application. A response with the enclosed petition for a three-month extension is due December 2, 2003.

Applicants include with this filing the extension fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3). In addition, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 15966-557 RCE (Cura-57 RCE).

Claims amendment and Claims as pending are provided on pages 2-4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.